

## **Abstract**

Thesis „Critical thinking of high school students – the method of verification of the news” focuses on the analysis of the media literacy of Czech high school students. The aim of the work was to find out how students validate information and whether they do so at all. I also focused on their critical thinking of the news and if they are able to recognize misinformation. I divided this thesis into two parts – theoretical part and the analysis. In the theoretical part, I focused on media concepts, issues of the digital media era and the inclusion of media education in the curriculum. I divided the research into two parts – quantitative and qualitative. In the first part of the research, I sent a questionnaire to the students from various high schools. I got 339 responses. Then I went deeper into the topic and did individual interviews with a sample of 11 students. The results of the questionnaire survey revealed that students are able to work with various sources of information, in most of them verify reports, and almost all can recognize misinformation. Due to the already conducted research of media literacy in the Czech Republic, I did not expect this positive result. However, in individual interviews in which I treated the respondents more in depth, the weaknesses of their media education became apparent. Most of them were able to detect misinformation, but few were able to defend this claim. This research showed that when it comes to the evaluation of media messages, the addressed students follow the intuition or opinion of the family. However, most of them do not have theoretical knowledge of this issue.